

## Have You Been a Good Boy?



## Story of the Christmas Stocking

**Y**EARS and years ago stockings were not hung on Christmas eve as we hang them now. No one ever heard of such a thing as hanging up a stocking for Christmas gifts. And if children had thought of such a thing they would have said, "What a foolish idea! A stocking wouldn't hold half the things we want." So the children throughout the world placed crocks, big brass basins, and copper kettles on the hearth on Christmas eve and left notes in them telling Santa to fill them to the brim. Each year the children left larger vessels to be filled. Up in the great white north Santa's reindeer no longer pranced and pawed, impatient to be off on Christmas eve, as they once had done. They hung their heads and a tired look came into their big brown eyes, for they remembered how heavy the loads had grown and how many more trips they were forced to make year by year.

St. Nicholas no longer rested now through the summer months, as he once had done, but labored every day throughout the year, and often he built toys late into the night, for a great many gifts had to be made to fill the baskets that the greedy children left. The twinkles left his merry eyes, and he no longer sang about his work, for he was sad and thought of the time that would come when he could no longer build enough presents to go around.

Late one December day St. Nicholas stepped from his workshop into the deep snow. Facing the south, he stretched out his tired arms and called: "Hear, oh hear, children of the earth, my loved ones, can you not see you are becoming selfish and that your greedy demands are too great a task even for St. Nicholas, king of the Christmas spirit? Can't you see, my children, that you are killing the spirit of Christmas?"

His chin sank upon his chest and tears glistened in his kindly eyes. A soft white snowflake fluttered down and nestled against his cheek, and a tiny voice whispered into his ear: "Santa, I will help you."

"Who are you?" asked St. Nicholas. "I am a snow fairy," answered the tiny voice. "As my sisters and I have danced about the air we have often swirled about your sleigh on Christmas eve, and have seen the great loads you have always carried and how tired you have looked."

"What, O what, shall I do?" asked Santa. "Just go about your work as usual," answered the fairy. "I and all my sisters will help you."

"Oh, thank you—thank you," cried St. Nicholas. And the fairy floated out among the other snowflakes. As the children went about the snowflakes whirled around them, and it seemed as if they heard the chanting of tiny voices, and as the snowflakes nestled against their ears they seemed to sing: "Just a stocking—hang a stocking up on Christmas eve."

"Just a stocking—just a stocking," rang through the hearts of the children on Christmas eve. And in place of leaving the great vessels as they once had done they just hung up their stockings.

Some children were too selfish to hear the song of the snowflakes and left the great baskets as they always had done. But when they saw the great joy the selfish children had in their gifts and how contented and happy they were these selfish ones were ashamed, and they, too, began to hang up only their stockings when Christmas eve came round.

When St. Nicholas found stockings in place of the great baskets and barrels the twinkles came again into his laughing eyes, his cheeks grew red, and he sang as he drove through the merry sea of snowflakes.

With just stockings to fill St. Nicholas had time to rest, and he grew strong and well, and the spirit of Christmas lived. So this is why nowadays we hang up our stockings on Christmas eve. All this we are told by a writer, who learned it from a Christmas fairy.

## Santa Fetched Her



## CHRISTMAS DOES NOT STAND ALONE

**I**F CHRISTMAS stood alone it would be an idle mockery. But it does not stand alone. It is part of a year. Yet it is a peculiar part. It is that brief period in which the child rules the world.

It marks nowadays the culmination of a civilization which has had a leading principle. The selfish, the hard, the grasping and the unsparring are out and apart that one week from the great flowing tide of the development of the world's progress. The man or woman who does not know this or see it or feel it is alien to the Christian spirit and to all the products wrought by the Christ spirit in the twenty centuries last past.

Christmas day, then, brings a message. But it also sings a song of hope and calls aloud a prophecy. The message is that gentleness is stronger far than force and that the greatest power on earth is the compelling power of tenderness.

Every Christmas tree is lit with that light. The great flood of presents bears this as its message. The cheer and charity of the whole season are fed by this love.

If the result of this process is only a century flower, however, or one that blooms even only once a year, then of what use is this more than that, this grotesque fact that this stranger plant? It is a curious phenomenon only, a hothouse spectacle and not an abiding food product.—Rev. Dr. David M. Steele, Philadelphia.

## NONE FOR HER.

Mr. Bacon—I see by using a modified wireless receiving instrument a French scientist has been able to detect thunder storms more than 300 miles distant.

Mrs. Bacon—Well, dear, if you were thinking of getting me anything like that for Christmas, forget it. I can hear thunderstorms sooner enough as it is.

## CELERY AND CHEESE SALAD.

Chop nicely bleached, tender celery fine and bind it together with mayonnaise. Line an ice cream dipper with cottage cheese, then fill up with the celery mixture, packing it in well. Screw out the cones on crisped lettuce leaves arranged for individual serving.

## CHRISTMAS FOR THE BABIES.

Never deny the babies their Christmas! It is the shining seal set upon a year of happiness. Let them believe in Santa Claus, or St. Nicholas, or Kris Kringle, or whatever name the jolly Dutch saint bears in your region.—Marion Harland.

## NO MISTLETOE TRUST.

"If mistletoe was positively necessary to Christmas celebration," said Uncle Eben, "d'aid be a mistletoe trust in no time."

## PLEASURE.

Oh, pleasure may itself refute As for its gifts we call. We work so hard in its pursuit We have no fun at all.

## Fun With Christmas Parcels

**L**AST year we had much more fun over the Christmas tree than ever before because each parcel was wrapped in such a way that it was impossible to guess what it contained.

To stimulate the children's ingenuity, a prize of a box of candy was offered to the member of the family who displayed the greatest cleverness in wrapping gifts. This was won by eight-year-old Jack. He hung a string of remarkably lifelike sausages upon the tree, as an offering to his mother. When the strings were untied half-a-dozen hemstitched handkerchiefs tumbled out. Each handkerchief had first been rolled in a small cardboard and then wrapped in mottled paper.

A close second to Jack's was a fountain pen concealed in a candle made of thin pasteboard wrapped in white tissue paper twisted to a point at the top to represent the wick and blackened with a drop of ink to show that the wick had been lighted. This was stuck into the kitchen candlestick before placing it under the tree where it presented a very realistic appearance.

A wrist watch was hidden in a bouquet of paper flowers. The tiny watch hid itself in the heart of a huge American Beauty that formed the center blossom of this masterpiece. A bracelet was concealed among the stems and the wide ribbon which tied them together.

This year, a silk umbrella is to be disguised as a dachshund by first wrapping it in strong paper and then twisting a wire around each end and bending the ends up to form the short legs of "long bowwow." Another bit of paper twisted on the ferrule forms the tail. The crook handle of the umbrella is padded with cotton batting for the head and the whole thing covered with brown crepe paper. Two big pins are used for eyes.

Small gifts are the easiest of all to make mysterious. They can be hidden in imitation apples, bananas, oranges or other kinds of fruit or paper cornucopias or drums. A set of dollies has been made into Old Glory by using crepe paper covered with American flags. Two of these were cut out, pasted on cardboard and fastened together on each side of the flat package of dollies and a small stick attached to one end. This will "wave" most effectively from the Christmas tree.

A bottle of cologne is made into a doll. A round cake of soap forms the head which is swathed in a frilly cap of white crepe paper. Eyes, nose and mouth are lightly traced upon its vacant countenance in water colors. The head is tied to the top of the bottle, the long dress of white crepe paper put on, and another twist of paper runs crosswise for arms.—Paula Nicholson in Farmer's Wife.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by the American Legion News Service.)

## GOES TO PRISON FOR BUDDY

Harry W. Haley, Canadian Soldier, Serves Time to Save No Man's Land Comrade.

A story of personal sacrifice, unique in annals of the World War, is that of Harry W. Haley, who served in Leavenworth prison to repay a war-time buddy for his life. Haley has written the American Legion the first account of his action.

Wounded and left in no man's land, Haley, a Canadian soldier, was slowly dying from loss of blood when he was picked up by Private Thomas G. Jones, an American. After taking his buddy to safety, Jones disappeared. Back in the lines again, Haley was captured by the Germans and lost all trace of his rescuer.

On May 20, 1921, Haley arrived at the home of his sweetheart in Canada. His wedding was to occur at 8 o'clock and the guests were assembled.

Then Private Jones reappeared. He had deserted the army at Fort Slocum, N. Y., because, he said, they were going to send him back to Germany. He was suffering from mustard gas burns and had a wife and two children dependent upon him.

Haley acted quickly. Telling Jones to return to his wife and keep quiet, he informed his fiancée of his intention. She declined to wait while he served the term Jones would have to spend in prison. At the hour of the wedding Haley took a train for St. Paul, Minn. He gave himself to the first police officer he encountered, declaring he was Private Thomas G. Jones, wanted for desertion.

Tried by court-martial at Fort Crook, Neb., Haley was sentenced to dishonorable discharge and six months in prison. He had served all but 18 days of his sentence when authorities, by checking fingerprints and identification learned of the substitution. The Legion is petitioning President Harding to purge the dishonorable discharge from Haley's record.

## NOTED LEGION GUEST BUSY

Marshal Foch Nearing End of Tour of Forty-Two States and Jaunt That Totals 16,000 Miles.

When Marshal Foch sails for Paris and much needed rest, he will have traveled a total of 16,000 miles on his tour of 42 states as guest of the American Legion. More than 200 towns and cities will have been visited by the allied generalissimo, in each of which the local Legion post and everybody in the community put forward their best to entertain the French hero.

The Legion tour takes Marshal Foch from coast to coast and from New Orleans to Minneapolis. Despite his seventy years, the eating of artistically gotten up banquets which are more or less digestible, and almost as many speeches each day as there are hours, the marshal will go back to France "feeling fine." He likewise withstood the administration of the degree of LL.D. conferred upon him by 17 universities and colleges.

One of the marshal's last photographs, taken in an unguarded moment, depicts his "fighting face," according to his aide's. American Legion members of the Foch party, however, declare it moreover shows the effects of the long strain on the allied leader.

## Above the Draft Age.

John Sylvester Myers, one hundred and two years old, walked from his home at Lime Ridge to Bloomsburg, Pa., to address a meeting of the Bloomsburg post of the American Legion. Myers told how he tried to get into service during the World War, but was rejected, because he was "above the draft age." The centenarian told an interesting story of his life. He had served in the Mexican and Civil wars, and was rejected from service during the Spanish-American war because of his age. He has also served in the navy. He has been married three times, his last marriage being at the age of ninety-two. "I feel just as good as I ever did," declared the veteran.

## He Is Not Dead but Sleepeth.

"So the saloons are dead," mourned the overseas veteran, returning to the land of the free, for the first time since 1917.

"Yes," answered his friend cheerily, "but you can communicate with their spirits."—American Legion Weekly.

## Carrying On With the American Legion

An army kitchen and 1,000 cots have been placed in former barracks at Cleveland to care for jobless ex-service men.

A 5 per cent discount on all purchases has been accorded members of the American Legion by the majority of merchants in Arcadia, Fla.

There is a Polish post among the posts of various nationalities of the American Legion. Argonne is its name and it is located at Toledo, O.

Motion pictures are shown three nights a week at the American Legion theater, which has just been established by a post in Alta Vista, Kan.

Agents of the Chicago American Legion post which has undertaken the reconstruction of Mesnil-en-Arrouaise, Picardy, have gotten the project under way.

Harold Wells, Petersburg, Va., blinded in the war, was loaned \$1,000 by the American Legion post there. He established a tobacco shop and has paid back the debt.

This country is well rid of Grover C. Bergdoll, slacker, according to an Illinois American Legion post, which recommends that the War department drop the case.

The few remaining Confederate veterans of Tennessee were able to attend the annual meeting of their association because of the efforts of 20 American Legionnaires of Nashville.

Employees of the elevated railways of Chicago have formed a post of the American Legion and have dedicated a bronze plate to the memory of eight "L" men killed in the war.

Four leading concert companies are to appear in Christopher, Ill., this winter because of the American Legion post there, which has succeeded in inaugurating a lyceum course.

The state of Michigan has bought the community house at Camp Custer, improved the place and turned it over to the American Legion posts to be used as a hospital for veterans.

While Cincinnati was discussing the need of cleaning the William Henry Harrison statue there, the Bentley American Legion post, armed with brushes, buckets and soap, did it.

An American flag has been given the Hellenic post, Minneapolis, of the American Legion, by the Greek citizens there. The post is composed of Grecian born veterans of the A. E. F.

Five hundred ex-service men acted as "supers" in the filming of a motion picture at Mamaroneck, N. Y. They were sent to enact a "battle" by a New York American Legion employment bureau.

Twelve overseas veterans refused to face death again in fumigating immigrant ships. The American Legion employment bureau in New York had received the call from the immigration officers.

Due to the propaganda of the American Legion in Birmingham, Ala., the hundreds of former service men have been placed in positions ranging between that of short order cooks to construction foremen.

Work has been supplied every applicant at the Wichita (Kan.) American Legion post employment agency, according to the Department of Labor. Seven states have been surveyed and that city heads the list.

By means of entertainments given by the school children of Minnesota, the American Legion Auxiliary of that state will be enabled to erect a building to care for destitute veterans on their discharge from hospitals.

Unemployed service men of Minneapolis have been organized by the American Legion posts there and are campaigning the city, selling handbags, automobile booster plates and similar articles bearing Legion sanction.

Jerked from his floor-bed by a rush of 50 proffered positions, a Kansas City former soldier has been able to support himself, his wife and five children. He had registered the previous day at the American Legion employment office.

Oscar E. Carlstrom, Aledo, Ill., new commander of the United Spanish War Veterans, was one of the committee of fifty A. E. F. men which started the American Legion in Paris in 1919. He is an adopted member of the G. A. R. of Illinois.

Feeling against Grover C. Bergdoll, slacker, was so high at the Missouri state convention of the American Legion that when it was announced that a motion was to be read about him it was passed by popular acclamation before even reading it.

Adjusted compensation will not be squandered by former service men, according to a Toledo (O.) newspaper. According to figures from a campaign, 178 want home aid, 88 want cash, 40 chose the certificate plan and 5 per cent want vocational training.

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